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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

Date Submitted: April 18, 2002

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	09/996,597
Filing Date	11/30/2001
First Named Inventor	Shinji ASANO
Group Art Unit	1742
Examiner Name	Unassigned Yee
Attorney Docket Number	040302-0280

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
DY	A1	5,922,149		Mallen Herrero et al.	07/13/1999	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
DY	A2	GB	766,115		Eaton Axles Limited	01/16/1957		
	A3	JP	63-65020		Daido Steel Co. Ltd.	03/23/1988		
	A4	JP	7-90380		Nippon Steel Corp.	04/04/1995		
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	A6	JP	10-8202		Sumitomo Metal Ind. Ltd.	01/13/1998		
	A7	JP	10-140284		Nissan Motor Co. Ltd.	05/26/1998		
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	A9	EPO	0 332 284		Dana Corporation	09/13/1989		

OTHER PRIOR ART - NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.) date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ⁶

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Date 3-20-03
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¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.

⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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